

**Amendments to the Claims**

The listing of claims below is intended to replace all prior listings of the claims in the present application.

1-67 (canceled)

68. (currently amended) A method of regulating protein kinase C activity comprising:

contacting human protein kinase C selected from the group of isozymes α, β, and γ with a mammalian biliverdin reductase, or a fragment thereof with protein kinase C regulatory activity that comprises, or a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16 or 17, said contacting being under conditions effective to regulate activity of the human protein kinase C activity.

69-70 (canceled)

71. (previously presented) The method according to claim 68, wherein said contacting is carried out with rat or human biliverdin reductase.

72. (previously presented) The method according to claim 71, wherein the biliverdin reductase is human biliverdin reductase comprising an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 3.

73. (currently amended) The method according to claim 68, wherein said contacting is carried out with ~~a~~ a polypeptide comprising the fragment of the mammalian biliverdin reductase that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16 or 17.

74. (previously presented) The method according to claim 68, wherein said contacting is carried out in a cell.

75. (previously presented) The method according to claim 74, wherein the cell is *in vivo*.

76. (previously presented) The method according to claim 74, wherein the cell is *in vitro*.

77. (currently amended) The method according to claim 73 68, wherein  
the fragment of the mammalian biliverdin reductase comprises said contacting is carried out  
with a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18, 19, 34, or 35.